

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 915

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENC, PBRO, PE
SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS: FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT FOR CUERPO
GENERAL DE BOMBEROS VOLUNTARIOS

REF: STATE 171393, LIMA 490

1. NATIONAL PLANNING INSTITUTE TURNED DOWN REQUEST BY
MINISTER OF INTERIOR FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED WITH
PURCHASE OF COMPLETE US\$35 MILLION FIREFIGHTING
EQUIPMENT PACKAGE FOR CUERPO GENERAL DE BOMBEROS
VOLUNTARIOS. REASON FOR DENIAL WAS GENERAL STATE OF
PERUVIAN ECONOMY AND NEED TO REDUCE FOREIGN INDEBTEDNESS,
ESPECIALLY IN "YEAR OF AUSTERITY". AS COMPROMISE
SOLUTION TO PROBLEM OF URGENT NEED FOR EQUIPMENT
BY FIREFIGHTING BATALLIONS THROUGHOUT PERU, NATIONAL
PLANNING INSTITUTE DID PRT DID AUTHORIZE INTERIOR MINISTRY
TO OBTAIN FINANCING FOR \$5 MILLION OF TOTAL PACKAGE.
THERE IS UNWRITTEN UNDERSTANDING THAT ADDITIONAL \$5
MILLION SEGMENTS WILL BE AUTHORIZED EVERY SIX MONTHS
UNTIL FULL PURCHASE IS COMPLETED.

2. BY RESOLUTION 005-78 CBP/CN, DATED MAY 31, 1978,
A COMMISSION, MADE UP OF OFFICIALS OF THE FIREMEN'S
CORPS (CUERPO DE BOMBEROS DEL PERU), WAS CHARGED WITH
SETTING PRIORITIES AND SELECTING \$5 MILLION WORTH OF
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EQUIPMENT FROM TOTAL PACKAGE. GROUP WAS ALSO CHARGED
WITH RECOMMENDING SUPPLIER. COMMISSION SUBMITTED ITS
REPORT ON JUNE 30. COPY OF REPORT BEING AIRPOUCHED
TO HARDISTY (USDOC/MEPD).

3. COMMISSION RECOMMENDED SUPPLIERS IN FOLLOWING PRIORITY
ORDER:

- A. YOUNG ROCKLAND (USA)
- B. J. HOFMAN OVERSEAS (USA)
- C. H.C.B. ANGUS LTD. (UK)
- D. CAMIVA (FRANCE)
- E. WARD LA FRANCE (USA)

CONRESERSA, LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUNG ROCKLAND, IS CONFIDENT THAT INTERIOR MINISTER WILL NOW PROCEED WITHOUT DELAY TO PLACE ORDER WITH YOUNG ROCKLAND. CONRESERSA HAS REQUESTED FINANCING DOCUMENTS FROM RICHARD YOUNG IN ORDER TO CLOSE DEAL BEFORE GOP HAS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE ANY LAST MINUTE CHANGES.

4. THERE IS NO DIRECT LINKAGE BETWEEN THIS SALE AND GOP DIFFICULTIES IN REACHING AGREEMENT WITH IMF. PROBLEMS WITH IMF AND FOREIGN COMMERCIAL BANKS HAVE COMPOUNDED GENRAL ECONOMIC CRISIS WHICH MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOP TO CARRYOUT FULL \$35 MILLION ACQUISITION IN 1978 WAS WAS ORIGINALLY CONTEMPLATED.

5. EMBASSY HAS HEARD NOTHING REGARDING YOUNG'S PROPOSAL TO PERUVIANS TO USE CHRYSLER CHASSIC BUILT IN PERU WITH US-MADE BODIES. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT CONRESERA IS PUSHING THIS IDEA VERY STRENOUSLY AT THIS TIME. PERHAPS THEY WILL TRY TO MAKE ADDITIONAL SALES USING THIS CONCEPT AFTER ORDER FOR \$5 MILLION IN DIRECT IMPORT PURCHASE FINALIZED.
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6. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO FOLLOW CLOSELY ALL DEVELOPMENTS ON THIS MAJOR PROJECT AND TO ASSIT CONGRESERSA WHENEVER SUCH HELP IS REQUESTED AND IS APPROPRIATE.
SHLAUDEMAM

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